

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 6, 14 and 18 have been canceled. Claim 17 has been amended as supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. The limitations of Claim 1, 6 and 14 have been included in Claim 17.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 15-17 will now be active in this application.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dollinger and Examiner Zimmer for the helpful discussion on March 11, 2009. The combination of Claims 17, 1 and 6 was discussed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 17** relates to a method of coating and/or laminating of a structure in the form of a sheet, comprising:

contacting a hotmelt adhesive structure with said structure in the form of a sheet;

wherein said hot melt adhesive structure comprises

an upper dot and a lower dot on a substrate;

wherein the upper dot and the lower dot comprise an amine-terminated crosslinkable copolyamide and the lower dot further comprises a crosslinker and an acrylic and/or polyurethane dispersion;

wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of the isocyanates and has more than two reactive groups per molecule; and

wherein the base dot consists of a passivated isocyanate and an amine terminated copolyamide and is applied in halftone formation as a paste.

Since the limitations of Claim 14 are included in Claim 17, the rejections over Simon et al; Simon et al and Degussa; Simon et al and Mattor et al; Simon et al and Kohlhammer et al; Simon et al, Kohlhammer et al and Dobson et al; Simon et al and Hahnle et al; are obviated. Claim 14 was not rejected over these combinations of references.

In addition, the rejections of the Claims over Simon et al and Hiratsuka et al are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the corresponding German document of Simon et al. (DE 198 08 809) is discussed at page 3, first paragraph, of the specification.

In Simon et al., it is described how a free isocyanate is stabilized against water. Therein, the free isocyanate is extruded into an inert polyolefin matrix and then finely ground once again. In this way, a stable cross-linkable system was created for the base dot. The disadvantage of this system is the complex and therefore expensive production of the water-stable isocyanate, and in addition the polyolefin matrix hinders the diffusion speed, thus resulting in a reduction of the reaction rate. Further, it has so far not been possible to provide a stable crosslinkable system for the base dot. See page 3, lines 11 and 12 of the specification. Either the isocyanates could not be stabilized in water or the activation temperatures for crosslinking were too high.

The cross-linkable melt-adhesive structure of the present invention has a feature that the reactive components present in the melt-adhesive structure react with cross-linking only in the melt. The activation temperature is lower than in previous systems and the structure has a good water resistance. See page 3, lines 24-32 of the specification.

In addition, the method of the present invention represents a simplification compared to Simon et al.

Hiratsuka et al do not cure the defects of Simon et al.

Therefore, the rejections of the Claims over Simon et al and Hiratsuka et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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